

CITY OF DAHLONEGA

WORK SESSION MINUTES January 15, 2015

The Dahlonega City Council held a Work Session on Thursday, January 15, 2015 at City Hall. Members present were Mitchell Ridley, Sam Norton, Terry Peters, Bruce Hoffman, Michael Clemons and Roman Gaddis. City Attorney Doug Parks was also present. Mayor Gary McCullough called the Work Session to order at 4:05 p.m.

PLACING A MEMORIAL PLAQUE AT WELCOME CENTER FOR BILL HARDMAN:

Ms. Helen Hardman, Joy Kramer and Judy Claxton were present to request that a memorial plaque for Mr. Bill Hardman be placed at the Welcome Center. Mr. Hardman was such a huge part of promoting tourism for Dahlonega. Ms. Kramer informed that funds will be raised for the plaque and will match the existing plaques in style. They have also approached the County and Chamber concerning the placement of the plaque. After further discussion, Mayor McCullough requested that a draft design of the plaque be given for approval at the February Council Meeting.

CROSSWALK ON MAIN STREET FOR UNG STUDENT HOUSING:

Mayor McCullough informed that the City is still waiting on a traffic engineer report before any decision can be made concerning the crosswalk.

FY 2014 ENDING BUDGET AMENDMENT:

Finance Director Sabrina Cape informed that final budget amendments were required and they have been received from the City auditors. She further informed that the General Fund at FY end was better than expected and that Hotel/Motel tax exceeded the projected revenues. Mayor McCullough requested the budget amendments be placed on the February Council meeting agenda for approval.

CITY PARK FEES – ORDINANCE 2004-05 AMENDMENT 1:

Mayor McCullough informed that the question was raised whether to charge public schools, daycares, and private schools for the use of the park. After further discussion, it was the consensus of the Council that no schools be charged a fee for the use of the park. Also, the time for the parks to be open was changed to 5:00 a.m. Mayor McCullough requested that the park fees be placed on the February Council meeting agenda for approval.

CROSSWALK AT MOUNTAIN VIEW DRIVE:

Councilman Ridley requested that a crosswalk be placed at the end of Hoka Hoka Restaurant parking lot, crossing North Grove Street over to the edge of Mountain View Drive. This will allow for pedestrians to be able to cross over and continue to walk on a city sidewalk into the downtown area. After further discussion, Council requested that this be given to the City Engineer for evaluation.

STOP SIGNS ON NORTH HALL ROAD:

Ms. Celeste White sent a letter and photos requesting that the City once again look at the issue of how to slow speeders down on North Hall Road. Council discussed that more law enforcement was needed on North Hall. After further discussion, it was the consensus of the Council to have the City Engineer advise of other possibilities for speed control.

STAFF CONVERSION FROM PART TIME TO FULL TIME:

Finance Director Sabrina Cape informed Council that the Finance Department has one three year employee and all others have been employed less than one year. They have a lot of additional duties with e-verify and there needs to be more stability. There are three part-time employees with different hours and with the heavy flow of customers and the need for stability with accounts payable, there is a direct need for the receptionist to be moved to full time. Assistant City Manager Lou Stewart also concurred with Ms. Cape that the full time position was needed. After further discussion, it was the consensus of the Council to allow the part time position to be full time with no benefits.

At this time, Mayor McCullough asked Ms. Cape to send Council the cost comparison to lease/purchase two vehicles or to purchase from state contract. Ms. Cape informed that the City needs a replacement policy related to age and use and the repair cost needs to be annualized. After further discussion, Mayor McCullough asked that this item be placed on the February agenda for approval to lease or purchase two vehicles.

Mayor McCullough adjourned the Work Session at 4:50 p.m.